

**Oroville Facilities Relicensing Efforts
Draft Narrative Reports for Resource Action Discussion**

ENVIRONMENTAL WORK GROUP – NARRATIVE REPORTS

The Environmental Work Group (EWG) will develop narrative reports to evaluate potential resource actions. Narrative reports will not be prepared for resource actions that the EWG has eliminated because they are (1) not resource actions, (2) are redundant with other resource actions, (3) are being conducted under the current license, or (4) undesirable.

The narrative reports will be written as threshold decision documents. They will allow a reasonable audience to assess the merits and constraints of the resource actions. They may contain technical information, but should be written so that a non-technical reviewer can understand the merits and constraints. The narrative reports should contain sufficient preliminary decision information to move the proposed resource action forward for further consideration. A recommendation may be included in the narrative, subject to modification by the EWG, or may be omitted until the EWG makes a recommendation for the Plenary Group. The recommendation may entail additional studies to be conducted at some future date or as part of an adaptive management program. Narrative documents will stand alone, but linked to one another as appropriate.

Detailed evaluations of the resource actions will not be completed in the narrative reports, but may be conducted as part of the PDEA process. The detailed analysis of the resource actions cannot, in most cases, be completed until the specifics of flow, stage elevation and water temperature at specific locations at specific time ranges are defined as part of the aggregation of the resource actions into project alternatives, e.g. you can't do a design and evaluation of the proposed creation of new side channel habitat until the flow regime that is intended to create its habitat values is defined. In this example, there would likely be different locations identified as candidate locations for more detailed design and evaluation for each project alternative (and flow regime) that the resource action was included in.

To optimize value, the narrative reports should be clear and concise and should include a summarization of all known information and identify key issues for consideration in the design and evaluation process. Attachments may be provided if they will assist reviewers in their assessments of the resource actions. However, all critical information regarding the project should be contained within the body of the narrative. Education of the reviewer should be a primary goal of the narrative. The narrative report should contain the following sections:

1. Description of Potential Resource Action - [EWG – ##]

Provide a summary description sufficient to define the scope and extent of the resource action. For example, for spawning habitat enhancement of side channels

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should include a description of the area included in the resource action and the number of side channels.

Describe the relationship of the resource action to other proposed resource actions.

2. Nexus to Project

Describe how the project affects the resource being enhanced or mitigated. For example, for anadromous spawning habitat, the project dams block upstream movement and the downstream flows affect spawning quality.

3. Potential Environmental Benefits

List the potential benefits of the resource action. Is the resource action a limiting factor for the resource in question? For example, is the availability of spawning habitat a limiting factor for the population of the species of concern?

4. Potential Constraints

What are the constraints associated with the resource action and the possible effects on other resources? For example could the resource action affect recreation or cultural resources? It is important to be as specific as possible.

5. Existing Conditions in the Proposed Resource Action Implementation Area

Describe the current conditions of the area in which the resource action would be implemented. The description could include flow conditions, geomorphic conditions, water quality conditions, riparian and/or terrestrial habitat conditions, existing fish passage conditions, etc. The description should include a description of the conditions of the resources the action is intending to affect and the environmental conditions that may effect the implementation of the proposed resource action. If a field evaluation was conducted, the date of the field evaluation and the names of the participants in the evaluation should be included in the current conditions write up.

6. Design Considerations and Evaluation

Describe any important specific design consideration regarding the potential resource actions (size restrictions, specific reaches of the river, specific flow modifications, specific water temperature manipulations, time of operation of the resource action). Based on the current conditions in the project area, are there any additional special considerations that could effect the implementation of the proposed resource actions? Also list any State specific regulations which will need to be addressed prior to implementation of the resource action (environmental or engineering permitting). List, if applicable, the potential consequences, both negative and beneficial, the resource action could have on threatened, endangered, or

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special status species. In addition, describe any operational changes that would be needed with respect to the current facility operations.

List, if applicable, any previous results of the implementation of the proposed resource action (i.e., has the proposed resource action or a similar resource action been implemented before, and how successful has it been at achieving the goal?). Information regarding implementation of the proposed resource action or a similar resource action may be gathered from this and/or other projects.

List, if applicable, when the resource action would be implemented. Include information regarding frequency (i.e., monthly, annually, seasonally, event-driven, every 5 years), duration (i.e., one day, one week, several months, year-round), and specific timing (i.e., January through March). Would there be additional operation and maintenance needed?

List how the success of the resource action might be evaluated or measured. Identify monitoring needs and data analyses.

Describe how other closely related resource actions or resource actions that address similar goals using similar mechanisms relate to the proposed resource action. Specify how closely related resource actions are distinct and describe important differences between either the mechanisms of achieving the goals or differences in the goals. This comparison would be needed for only very closely related proposed resource actions.

7. Synergism and Conflicts

Describe the relationship of the proposed resource actions to complimentary/synergistic and conflicting resource actions. Specifically, describe closely related resource actions whose implementation would provide additional value to the proposed resource actions because of compatibilities or synergisms. Identify potential conflicts with other resources or resource actions.

8. Uncertainties

Describe uncertainties associated with implementing the resource action. For example, predation, water temperatures, and juvenile trapping efficiency upstream of Oroville dam might affect the success of providing upstream anadromous fish passage.

9. Cost Estimate

Provide an order of magnitude cost estimate or upper and lower cost bound for the resource action. Provide both capital and operating costs.

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10. Recommendations

The goal of this section is to present a summary which would provide the necessary context and basis to allow the reader to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed resource action. The EWG will complete the recommendations section prior to moving the resource action to the Plenary Group. If there is no consensus on the recommendation, alternative viewpoints should be provided.

11. Literature Cited

The narrative should include references to related research studies, project study reports, scientific reports, and other supporting information cited in the narrative.